

INTRODUCTION

The International Technical Conference on the Enhanced Safety of Vehicles (ESV) program originated more than thirty years ago. It was established under the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society, and was implemented through bilateral agreements between the governments of the United States, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, Japan, and Sweden. The participating countries agreed to develop experimental safety vehicles to advance the state-of-the-art technology in automotive engineering and to meet periodically to exchange information on their progress. Since its inception the number of international partners has grown to include the governments of Canada, Australia, The Netherlands, Hungary, Poland, and two international organizations – the European Enhanced Vehicle Safety Committee, and the European Commission. The research emphasis of ESV has shifted from experimental safety vehicles to motor vehicle safety research. A representative from each country and organization serves as a Government Focal Point in support of the Conference.

This CD-ROM publication containing the proceedings of the 17th ESV Conference is distributed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation in the interest of information exchange. The technical papers included in this publication detail safety research efforts underway worldwide, and share the common international objective of reducing motor vehicle related fatalities and injuries. The opinions, findings, and conclusions expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the Department of Transportation or the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The technical diversity of motor vehicle safety research contributions made by authors worldwide is a hallmark of ESV's success. The Conference Organizers thank our international participants for their dedication and support of the 17th ESV Conference and look forward to your participation in the future.